

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held 3 Public Hearings and a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 5, 2012 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk
ASSENT:	James Stradley	----	Council Member

PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2012 (ZONING)

Supervisor Livsey opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm.

Public Comment:

Eric Smith, Planning Board Chair, said the Planning Board had made comments and proposed substantial changes to the law and he would like to go back to the drawing board with this.

Council Member Edsall said the correspondence is clear and the Boards should be able to reach a compromise.

John Hager, Building Inspector, agrees with Mr. Smith and would like the Boards to sit down and work on the language and then present it to the public again.

Council Member Edsall said that because the changes seem significant, he would like to close the public hearing and continue the process.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 7:05pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)**

PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #6 OF 2012 (SIGN REGULATIONS)

Supervisor Livsey opened the Public Hearing at 7:06pm.

Supervisor Livsey said that the code really needed to be re-done.

Public Comment:

Eric Smith thanked the Board for doing this. Mr. Smith stated that he is happy with the law and believes that it is workable for both sides.

Supervisor Livsey said that he received notification from Orange County Planning Department that they had no problem with this local law.

Council Member Edsall said it is a working document and the Board welcomes suggestions from the Planning Board.

Justin Rider said that he had a discussion with the Planning Board and they have asked for some clarifications in the law. Mr. Rider reviewed the clarifications with the Board.

The Board discussed moving/neon signs.

Council Member Gunza said she would like to leave that wording for now and asked if another public hearing would be necessary to change it later.

Mr. Rider said that he doesn't believe for a language change you need another public hearing. Mr. Rider said the Board can come up with the language and vote on it at a later meeting.

Supervisor Livsey would like to postpone the vote until the next meeting.

Council Member Gokey would like to clarify the outline building illumination.

Mr. Rider said he would prepare a draft according to the input from tonight.

Supervisor Livsey asked the Building Inspector, Council Member Edsall and Mr. Rider to get together so there is something for the next meeting.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the Public Hearing. Public hearing closed at 7:27pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)**

PUBLIC HEARING – 2013 BUDGET

Supervisor Livsey opened the Public Hearing at 7:28pm.

Supervisor Livsey said the budget process began in August and due to many circumstances, the budget started out \$250,000 in the hole. The Supervisor said the appropriations are down \$8,000 from last year, the Revenue is down \$48,000 from last year and the Unexpended Fund Balance is down \$48,000 from last year. The Supervisor said the Board agreed on a cost of living raise of 1.4% for part-time employees and a 2% raise for full-time employees, but the increase in the health insurance contributions will decrease the amount of money the full-time employee brings home.

Council Member Gunza said the Board worked very hard on the budget.

Public Comment:

Ed Magryta said he was not sure the budget was good, but he would like to ask some questions. Mr. Magryta questioned the budget for a lengthy amount of time and was answered by the Supervisor, Board Member or Comptroller.

Judge Fatsis spoke to the Board about the revenue that was put in the budget for the Court. Mr. Fatsis said he was not sure Court could meet that number and asked the Board to lower it.

Supervisor Livsey said that the Board was okay with the number as it was.

Mr. Magryta asked the Comptroller to add the percentage column to the final budget.

Ms. Blauvelt explained that the numbers are distorted because of the re-valuation, but she could use last years' numbers. Ms. Blauvelt said she would try to add the percentage column to the final budget.

The Board thanked Ms. Blauvelt for her hard work on the budget.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the public hearing. Public hearing closed at 8:35pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)**

REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Livsey opened the regular meeting at 8:36pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MINUTES

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to adopt the minutes from the October 22, 2012 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-ayes (Livsey, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-abstain (Edsall)
1-absent (Stradley)

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey received correspondence from COL Rideout that the Town needs to get out of the West Point Transfer Station. The Supervisor said there has been a verbal extension, but he has received nothing official.

FINANCIAL

Budget Transfer:

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve the transfer of \$5,000 from Highway Garage Improvements to Highway Garage Other.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

HURRICANE SANDY

Supervisor Livsey reported that almost everyone in the Town has power back. The Supervisor was very impressed with the way everyone worked together during this storm. The Supervisor said that the only thing missing was the school and they will be sending a representative to the next Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Gunza:

Council Member Gunza said the Emergency Preparedness Committee would like to thank everyone who was a part of the storm efforts and also, the residents for their patience. Ms. Gunza reported that Overlook is now open.

Council Member Gunza said there is a storm coming this week that could bring 20-30 miles per hour sustained winds, 35-40 miles an hour gusts, moderate surges in the Hudson River and approximately 1-2 inches of rain.

Ambulance: The Ambulance Corps has been very busy with accidents and Council Member Gunza believes that the Police can help cut the number down by checking speed on vehicles.

Supervisor Livsey said that Mr. Squicciarini is prepared for the upcoming storm.

Council Member Gokey:

Building Dept.: Has been slow.

Supervisor Livsey asked if a proposal had been received for Voice Over IP.

Council Member Gokey said the company was supposed to get back to Ms. Blauvelt about a lease option. Ms. Gokey said she would contact them.

IT: Was good during the storm.

Council Member Edsall:

Sewer: Thanked Doug Willis for camping out at the Sewer Plant and said that the Town needs to look at a generator for there.

Mr. Squicciarini said he has spoken to Mr. Willis and the Engineer about a generator for the Plant. Mr. Squicciarini said a meeting will be set up with the Electrical and Structural Engineer to discuss the generator.

Mr. Squicciarini said he should hear something, next week, from the Engineer about the basement remediation.

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Supervisor Livsey said he looked at the contract from Taylor and asked Mr. Rider to do the same.

Mr. Rider said that the contract is lengthy, but fairly balanced.

Mr. Squicciarini said that he has not been to the West Point Transfer Station since the storm, so he questioned whether the Town needs it. Mr. Squicciarini said that it would be an added cost to the Town and transportation would need to be added to the contract. Mr. Squicciarini stated he believes in the concept and said the Town needs to be more independent.

Mr. Rider said the contract keeps transportation separate.

Council Member Edsall asked what Mr. Squicciarini thought the escalation rate had been for the last 20 years.

Mr. Squicciarini said that it was \$75,000-\$100,000 when it started and now it is \$300,000. Mr. Squicciarini said the variable would be the fuel.

Supervisor Livsey said that the Taylor Contract and Scenic Hudson need their own meeting. Mr. Livsey said he doesn't see the Board coming to an agreement with Taylor this year. The Supervisor would like to sit down, with the Board, and discuss both contracts. The Supervisor said he would suggest the Town clean up one side of the marina and ask Scenic Hudson to give the Town the other side.

Council Member Edsall said he doesn't believe that it is a viable commercial property.

Supervisor Livsey said the next meeting will be on November 19 at the Fort Montgomery Fire House at 7pm and there will be three (3) Public Hearings that night.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Fatsis informed the Board that the Court clerks will be taking lunch from 1-2pm daily. Mr. Fatsis said this will coincide the lunches of the other courts in the County and will make the clerks more productive.

Judge Fatsis said that, recently, his clerk felt like she was having a heart attack. Mr. Fatsis would like to have everyone trained to use an AED.

TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Judge Fatsis said he has received another donation for the Community Service Program and he will give it to Ms. Blauvelt. Mr. Fatsis would like to see a stipend given to the administrator of the program.

Supervisor Livsey questioned the Court Clerks not being at work Monday and Tuesday.

Judge Fatsis explained that the Director from the County closed all the courts.

ADJOURN

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)**

Attest,